

Editor's Notebook



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Welcome To FARM SHOW!

If this is your first issue of FARM SHOW, welcome! You've just become a member of one of the most innovative groups of farm readers anywhere. We have subscribers in the U.S., Canada, and around the world, all of whom are interested in reading about latest new products, inventions and ideas born in farm shops. When there's a new machine in agriculture, chances are it was developed by one of our readers.

Do you have a new idea we should look at? If so, send it in or give us a call at: FARM SHOW Magazine, P.O. Box 1029, Lakeville, Minn. 55044 (ph 800 834-9665; email: editor@farmshow.com).

Thanks for subscribing. Enjoy!

Gum For Hunters

Neil Bretl has invented a new kind of gum but it's not exactly Juicy Fruit.

"It tastes a bit like a pine tree," he says.

Nor is it cheap, at \$4.99 for 12 Chiclet-style green tablets in a blister pack.

But in the world of deer hunting, where some will pay \$300 for scent-control coveralls or try to mask their odor by rubbing themselves with horse manure, Bretl just might have a hot new money-making idea.

For now, what he has is a promising start and a warehouse stacked with what he calls "Gum-O-Flage" - a new chewing gum that he says will protect hunters from detection by deer.



It started about seven years ago in the cedar swamps and woods of northern Wisconsin, where Bretl, a gun hunter since boyhood, began going after deer with bow and arrow. That meant hunting at closer range, and Bretl took precautions to eliminate his telltale human odor. He used special soap, shampoo and detergent. He wore carbon-lined clothing and kept it in sealed plastic bins with pine boughs.

Still, he said, deer picked up his scent. Frustrated, he turned to his brother, Nicholas, then a dental student. It's probably your breath, Nicholas suggested.

The brothers started researching the question, and they became convinced that breath was indeed the source of most human odor.

How best to eliminate it? Bretl talked with three accomplished hunters in Antigo, where he lives, and found that they had been chewing chlorophyll tablets, which, in addition to any odor-suppression effects, turned their teeth green. Another hunter used Bazooka bubble gum impregnated with spruce needles.

Bretl contacted an organic chemist friend and began cooking up gum recipes in a microwave. "My first few batches were hideous," he says. "It was tough chewing."

But experimentation led to more satisfactory results, and ultimately Bretl settled on a formula that incorporates antimicrobial agents, chlorophyll, and three kinds of pine oil. He contracted with Ford Gum & Machine Co., of Akron, N.Y., to make Gum-O-Flage.

Bretl has sold about 25,000 packs since the middle of August. Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Neil Bretl, Hunting Science, P.O. Box 236, Antigo, Wis. 54409 (ph 715 539-9721; website: www.huntingscience.com).



Remote control rifle can be controlled by computer from anywhere in the world.

Hunting On The Internet

John Underwood, Houston, Texas, was watching a live nature scene on an internet camera when he saw a bird fly by on the screen. A friend remarked "if only you had a gun" and that sparked a new idea: hunting by remote control on the internet!

Internet cameras have been around long enough to be both reliable and cheap. Many of them can be moved from side to side by the viewer. So it wasn't too hard to take that technology one step further to set up a rifle and camera combo that can be turned and fired by remote control.

The idea is so new there are no laws governing it but Underwood expects them to come along soon. Since he first went public with the idea a couple months ago, animal rights advocates have been complaining loud and clear.

But Underwood thinks the idea can serve a good purpose, allowing people who could not otherwise afford to travel to remote areas a chance to hunt for "exotic" game. It will also give severely disabled people a chance to participate in the sport.

A 10-shot shooting session sells for just \$5.95 (after paying a \$14.95 membership fee). Game on Underwood's 300-acre Texas farm include Barbary Sheep, Blackbuck Antelope, wild boar, and more. An attendant is on duty at all times to supervise the hunt.

You can find out more at Underwood's website, www.live-shot.com, or by emailing him at info@live-shot.com.

Ford Trucks Burning Up?

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recently opened up an investigation into engine fires in late model Ford F-150's pickups, Expeditions, and Lincoln Navigators. At least 36 fires in 2000 models have been reported to the NHTSA but consumer sites on the internet (such as www.consumeraffairs.com) have gathered many more such reports on the three vehicles, and not just involving the 2000 model year.

According to the reports, the fires often occur when a vehicle is parked with the engine off.

I recently had a personal experience with a burning 1999 Expedition owned by a friend of mine, Tony Groble of Stillwater, Minn. As he was driving home along a gravel road, smoke started coming out of the heat vents. When he pulled over and opened the hood, a small fire back by the passenger-side firewall took off with a "whoosh". In less than a minute, the entire pickup was engulfed with flames. He didn't have time to get anything out of the truck.

No specific cause for the fire was ever identified. His insurance company paid off and he got another comparable vehicle from a local dealer. Unfortunately, it's a 2000 model, which is the primary target of the NHTSA's investigation. "I'm going to keep my eyes open," says Tony.

To read more about other such vehicle fires, go to: http://www.consumeraffairs.com/recalls04/ford_150_engine_fires.html.

Words of Wisdom

An old Cherokee was teaching his grandson about life. "A fight is going on inside me," he said to the boy. "It is a terrible fight, and it is between two wolves. One is evil - he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego. The other is good - he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith. This same fight is going on inside you...and inside every other person, too."

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather which wolf would win.

The old Cherokee simply replied, "The one you feed."

Liberty Quotes

"You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty." *Mahatma Mohandas K. Gandhi*

"The only way to make sure people you agree with can speak is to support the rights of people you don't agree with." *Eleanor Holmes Norton*

"A society that does not recognize that each individual has values of his own which he is entitled to follow can have no respect for the dignity of the individual and cannot really know freedom." *Fredrich August von Hayek*

"The aspiration toward freedom is the most essentially human of all human manifestations." *Eric Hoffer*

"Of all the so-called natural human rights that have ever been invented, liberty is least likely to be cheap and is never free of cost." *Robert A. Heinlein*

"Those people who will not be governed by God will be ruled by tyrants." *William Penn*

"He does not believe, that does not live according to his belief." *Dr. Thomas Fuller*

"God grants liberty only to those who love it, and are always ready to guard and defend it." *Daniel Webster*

"No man is entitled to the blessings of freedom unless he be vigilant in its preservation." *General Douglas MacArthur*

"Courage is the first of all the virtues because if you haven't courage, you may not have the opportunity to use any of the others." *Samuel Johnson*

Me & My Forgetter

My forgetter's getting better
But my rememberer is broke.
To you that may seem funny
But to me it's not a joke.

For when I'm "here" I'm wondering
If I really should be "there".
And when I try to think it through
I haven't got a prayer!

At times I walk into a room,
Say what am I here for?
I wrack my brain, but all in vain.
A zero is my score.

At times I put something away
Where it is safe, but gee!
The person it is safest from
Is generally me!

When shopping I may see someone,
Say "Hi" and have a chat.
Then when the person walks away
I ask myself, "Who was that?"

Yes, my forgetter's getting better
While my rememberer is broke.
And it's driving me plumb crazy
And it isn't any joke!

Unknown

One-Liners

"A guy knows he's in love when he loses interest in his car for a couple of days." *Tim Allen*

"A man in love is incomplete until he has married. Then he's finished." *Zsa Zsa Gabor*

"Money won't buy friends, but you get a better class of enemy." *John Mendoza*

"I figure you have the same chance of winning the lottery whether you play or not." *Fran Lebowitz*

"Time's fun when you're having flies." *Kermit the Frog*

"The trouble with the rat race is that even if you win, you're still a rat." *Lily Tomlin*

"No man understands his wife until he understands every word she's not saying." *Anonymous*